

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10 IO-14 L-03 NSF-04

NSC-10 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SS-20 SPC-03 FEA-02

SAM-01 INT-08 OIC-04 DRC-01 SMI-01 /146 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9666

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SENV PFOR OCON JA

SUBJ: US-JAPAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

REF: (A) STATE 243238 DEC 13 1973; (B) STATE 007230; (C) TOKYO 16532

DEC 21, 1973

SUMMARY: GOJ, ON BASIS MINISTER MIKI'S PREFERENCE, REQUEST THT ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE BE HELD WEEK OF MAY 20, RATHER THAN MAY 13. REACTIONS TO AGENDA GENERALLY FAVORABLE, EXCEPT FOR INCLUSION OF WHALES. DEFINITIVE COMMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED SOON. ACTION REQUESTED: ADVISE SOONEST WHETHER MAY 20 DATE ACCEPTABLE. END SUMMARY.

1. SCICOUNS HAS HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH FONMIN AND ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (EA) REPS ON BASIS OF REF A AND B. AS REPORTED PARA ONE, REF C, JAPANESE PREFERENCE WAS FOR CONFERENCE IN LATTER PART OF MAY. APPARENTLY, JAPANESE INTENDED THIS TO BE TAKEN QUITE LITERALLY, AND HAVE EXPRESSED STRONGPREFERENCE THAT CONFERENCE BE HELD IN TOKYO WEEK OF MAY 20, RATHER THAN MAY 13. SOUNDINGS WITH EA INDICATE THIS IS PERSONAL PREFERENCE OF MINISTER MIKI.

2. REACTION TO US AGENDA IS GENERALLY FAVORABLE, EXCEPT FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INCLUSION OF ITEM ON WHALES. BOTH FONOFF AND EA INDICATE INCLUSION

THIS ITEM ON FORMAL AGENDA WOULD PRESENT MAJOR PROBLEMS FOR GOJ DUE TO FACT THAT PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS ISSUE IN GOJ NOT WITHIN COMPETENCE OF EA. SCICOUNS RECALLED STRONG US FEELINGS ON THIS SUBJECT IN US, AND EXPRESSED OPINION THAT FAILURE TO TOUCH ON ISSUE DURING HIGH-LEVEL ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE WOULD BE INCONGRUOUS. JAPANESE RESPONSE WAS THAT THEY RECOGNIZED THAT US WOULD WANT TO SPEAK TO SUBJECT, BUT THAT PROBLEM FOR THEM IS INCLUSION ON FORMAL AGENDA. IMPLICATION WAS THAT UNILATERAL REVIEW OF TOPIC BY US WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE.

3. QUESTION ALSO RAISED BY FONOFF ON AGENDA ITEM RE CONVENTION ON LAND BASED SOURCES OF MARINE POLLUTION, ON SIMILAR GROUNDS THAT ISSUE INVOLVES RESPONSIBILITIES OF AGENCIES OTHER THAN EA. IN ADDITION, FONOFF INDICATED GOJ WOULD PROBABLY PROPOSE AGENDA ITEM ON ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK OF ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION. EXPLANATION WAS THAT THIS WOULD RELATE PRINCIPALLY TO FACT THAT TRANSFER OF CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION FROM UJNR FRAMEWORK HAD LEFT SOME GOJ AGENCIES WITH ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS OUT OF PICTURE.

4. JAPANESE REACTION TO AGENDA DESCRIBED ABOVE IS INFORMAL AND PRELIMINARY. FONOFF WILL PROVIDE DEFINITIVE COMMENTS SOON. SCIOFF HAS ALSO OBTAINED INFORMAL IDEAS OF EA STAFF ON AGENDA (WHICH PREPARED INDEPENDENTLY OF US PROPOSALS) AND IS POUCHING SEPARATELY. THESE SHOULD NOT BE REGARDED AS FORMAL GOJ PROPOSAL.

5. FONOFF REITERATED PROMISE OF GOJ COUNTERPROPOSALS ON ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT, BUT WERE VAGUE AS TO WHEN THIS COULD BE EXPECTED. HOWEVER, THEY REITERATED INTEREST OF GOVERNMENT IN CONCLUDING AGREEMENT, HOPEFULLY AT MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE.

6. EA WOULD BE PLEASED TO ARRANGE FIELD TRIP FOR US GROUP. SINCE OSAKA IS THREE HOURS ONE WAY FROM TOKYO BY TRAIN, ONE-DAY VISIT TO FACILITY REFERRED TO IN REF A WOULD BE DIFFICULT. ADVICE ON LENGTH OF TIME GROUP PREPARED TO DEVOTE TO TOUR WOULD BE HELPFUL. IN MEANTIME, SCICOUNS WITH EA COOPERATION WILL PREPARE LIST OF SITES OF POTENTIAL INTERST.
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